

അതു കറെ ജാഗ്രതയായിട്ടു ചെയ്യണം. അതിന്നു പുറമെ വലുതായിട്ടുള്ള ബാങ്കു കാക്കൊ ജന്മികൾക്കൊ കണക്കെടുത്തു് ഇളവുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ തീരുമാനമുണ്ടാകയാണെങ്കിൽ അതു കൊടുക്കരുത്. ഗവണ്മെന്റ് എന്തെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യുകയാണെങ്കിൽ യഥാർത്ഥത്തിൽ വൃക്ഷങ്ങളും ഫലങ്ങളും നശിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളവർക്കു കീട്ടത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ ചെയ്യണം. ഒരുപക്ഷേ പണക്കാർക്കു ഇങ്ങിനെയുള്ള നഷ്ടം സംഭവിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരിക്കുമായില്ല. വെറുതെ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് കണക്കുകൂട്ടിയിരുന്നിട്ടു കാൽമുട്ടിയില്ല. ഞങ്ങൾ ഇപ്പോൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്നത് നികുതി കുറവുചെയ്തുവാൻ ഗവണ്മെന്റ് വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു തക്ക സമയത്തു്—ആവശ്യസമയത്തു്—ചെയ്തുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നാണ്. ഈ കാൽമുട്ടിൽ അനുജ്യാഗന്ധപക്ഷത്തിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിന്നു വേണ്ടി ഞാൻ ഈ റസല്യൂഷൻ ഇവിടെ പ്രസ്സ് ചെയ്യാൻ.

Resolution put and carried

The House rose for lunch at 1 p.m. and re-assembled at 2-30 p.m. with M. R. Ry. K. Ayyappan Ayl., Deputy President, in the Chair.

RESOLUTION No. 19

Taking of vigorous measures against malaria

Mr. V. J. Mathai (Planters): The resolution standing in my name is as follows.— *"This Council recommends to the Government that vigorous measures may be taken to stamp out the scourge of malaria from the State."*

Mr. President, Sir, I can state without fear of contradiction that malaria is a real scourge in the State. Almost everybody is under the impression that malaria exists only in the hills and that the planters alone are concerned with it. If you draw a line 6 miles parallel to the Shoranur-Ernakulam road, I believe you are on the borders of malarial area. Chelakkara, Elanad, Pattikkad, Panancheri and further down Pariyaram, Ichippara, Varandarappilli—in short, if you draw a line, as I said before, 6 miles parallel to the existing Ernakulam-Shoranur road we are in malarial area. Therefore, it is a question not only affecting those who have any occasion to go up the hills but a vast majority of the people of the Cochin State. From figures we find that the inhabited areas of the Cochin State are only 40 per cent. Therefore, 60 per cent of the extent of the State is uninhabited area and when we include a portion of many of the villages which are inhabited, you will find that we can almost say that about 70 per cent of the Cochin State are really affected by malaria. As regards the effects of malaria upon an individual, I do not think I need say anything at all. The person is constantly taken ill and he gets a violent fever and he is laid up for a pretty long time when the first attack comes. When once it comes, it continues throughout a person's life as his companion unless he goes west before that. Therefore, to me

it appears that the disease and its effects upon humanity in general is in fact greater and more widespread and of longer duration than small pox, cholera and all those things which come under the name of "epidemics". While we have a special epidemic officer and a special staff and others in connection with small-pox and cholera, we have absolutely no special staff for the prevention and for the cure of malaria, unless it be the work done in hospitals I am not unaware of it. No statistics of malarial cases have so far been collected to my information. I have sent a question long before and I think probably because there is want of statistics no answer is yet given.

Now, as regards the particular importance of attending to the prevention and cure of malaria, I do not think I need state anything now. And it has become of added importance since we are now opening up a road in the Anamalais. About 13,200 acres more in the highly malarial parts of the State are to be opened up. I do not blame the Government for the less vigorous measures which are being adopted. Paucity of funds always. I know that during recent years something more than what was originally done has been done and is being done. I know some work is being done in the hills. But I say it is not enough. As a result of my interview with the epidemic officer yesterday he told me that a good deal of effect is resulting from anti-malarial work. He said that appreciable work has been done in one or two villages in the Chittur Taluk. As a matter of fact, we find Peermade, parts of the Nilgris, as for that matter, the Anamalais, Valparai which were places where there was malaria, are now more healthy than some of the healthy parts of the State. Peermade has become a health resort. Even the Sovereign of Travancore is going to Peermade. I need not state that some preventive measures will have to be taken. And it affects whom? Mostly the poorer classes of His Highness's subjects, those who are unable to attend to the eradication of their disease from their systems. It is they who suffer, the labourers; and those who are well-to-do are able to attend in time by means of injections to cure this disease. I therefore propose that prevention is always better than cure. As a result of my conversation with some of the planters as well as the epidemic officer and some others who are really interested in the prevention of malaria and the eradication of malaria, I have found that an expert ought to be sent up for training. I do not say that we should have a highly paid officer. Even a Sub-Assistant Surgeon will do. An expert may be got trained up. Some special training may be given to him. A small staff, say of three supervisors, one for the north, another for the centre and a third for the south, with of course a gang of workers may be

appointed. Spraying, oiling, canalisation, etc., may be done so that the breeding up of mosquitoes is controlled. Quinisation alone is not enough. Prevention is better than cure. I find now the Ayurveda system has also got some specifics. The resources of the Ayurveda may also be called in. As a layman I request the Government to consider the various aspects of the question and to see that more antimalarial measures are taken. With these few remarks, I commend this for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. T. K. Nayar (*Pazhayannur*): I second it.

***Dr. A. R. Menon** (*Minister for Rural Development*): Sir, I am in full agreement with the observations made by the hon'ble member. It is true that malaria is not confined to hilly districts alone. There are certain areas called malarial wherein the people suffer enormously. For example, in Chittur Taluk some places come under this category, and by persistent preventive work wide areas have been radically rendered free from this disease. It used to be done by the Government. Lately it was handed over to the Chittur Municipality and I shall just read the situation there.—

"Anti-malarial measures were being carried out in Chittur Taluk for the last ten years. This year Pattancheri and Nanniode have been selected for operation.

2. Measures towards the same purpose have been instituted in the Nelliampathy Hills since last year in co-operation with the Estate authorities.

3. An yearly grant of Rs. 150 is given to the Malakkiparai Estate to help the Estate authorities to stamp out Malaria from their Estate.

4. Every technical assistance is given to other Estate authorities in fighting Malaria (e.g., Mooply Group of Estates and Vanniampara Rubber Estate).

5. Anti-malarial operations were done for some years within the boundaries of Chittur Municipality. The work was later entrusted to the Municipality; but it is not known if they are continuing it.

6. There are other parts of the State requiring malaria control work, but for want of funds they are not attended to."

This is the report of the D.P.H. The Chairman was then addressed to report whether the work is being continued by the municipality or not. His report was that the work was continued till the year 1114. In 1114 no work was done after taking advice from the Assistant Surgeon of the local hospital. In 1115 the work was done. But in 1116 no work was done. In the 1117 Budget no provision was made for this work. That is within the town area.

Measures have been taken to combat this disease in various estates in co-operation with the estate owners, and I am glad to observe that appreciable benefit, as has been pointed out by the hon'ble mover, has been noticed in all these years. I am fully convinced that by proper measures we will be able to get rid of this

*Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

curse from a very large area and render it fit for occupation and cultivation. Especially in the light of our undertaking to open up the road to Anamalai it may be necessary to supplement the work of this department by additional hands so that these places may be rendered safe for occupation and settlement. Government shall bear in mind the suggestion of the hon'ble mover, and consistent with the funds at their disposal they will give effect to the measures he has suggested. In the meantime, in the immediate future if possible, the grant given to these various estates will be increased sufficiently.

Dr. T. Verghese (*Chief Medical Officer*): I would like to make one observation with regard to the Anamalai road. It is the intention of the Government to provide a fairly big staff under a Sub-Assistant Surgeon, and anti-malarial work will be carried on along that road.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Will that Sub-Assistant Surgeon be sent for anti-malarial training?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): If necessary he will be sent for training.

I wish to add also that Ayurveda has invaded into the field and we are trying the efficacy of this method of treatment. It is only going to be begun just now. I believe it may prove to be successful. If it proves to be successful it will be much cheaper than the methods we are adopting now. We will watch the experiment and according to the results achieved, measures will be adopted. I hope with this assurance the mover will be pleased to withdraw this resolution.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): I am very glad to find that the Government considers the matter very sympathetically and therefore there is no need to press the motion. In fact I had no idea of pressing the motion or getting a victory over the Government. It was to bring this matter to the notice of the House and the Government so that something may be done in this direction that I tabled this resolution. Before concluding I may draw the attention of the Government to the possibility of approaching the Rockefeller Institute which is doing something in Travancore. The Rose Institute may also be approached. These are the two institutes which are really concerned with the eradication of malaria from our parts. At least we should try to negotiate with them and see what amount of help we can get from them. With these words, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my resolution.

Motion by leave withdrawn